

1 [Urging Congress to Support Increased Relief Funding for Small Businesses and Local
2 Governments, and Development of Public Banks]

3 **Resolution urging Congress to support a new stimulus package that includes**
4 **increased relief funding for small businesses and local governments, with greater**
5 **guidance for banks regarding fund disbursement, and to support the development of**
6 **local and regional public banks through making federal funding available for**
7 **capitalization.**

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9 WHEREAS, With COVID-19 spreading to significantly more communities around the
10 country, it is clear that the epidemic has threatened the global economy at a scale not seen
11 since the financial crisis a dozen years ago, abruptly impacting the spending and confidence
12 that until recently supported a record-breaking job market for more than a decade; and

13 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 crisis and resulting shelter-in-place orders across the
14 country have plunged 22 million Americans into unemployment-- levels not seen since the
15 Great Depression; and

16 WHEREAS, In the State of California, the Employment Development Department has
17 received 2.7 million new jobless filings between March and April; and

18 WHEREAS, On March 31, 2020, the City Controller projected a budget deficit of up to
19 \$1.7 billion over the next two fiscal years, due to projected loss of revenue from taxes on
20 business activity; and

21 WHEREAS, The Federal Government allocated \$349 billion in the Coronavirus Aid,
22 Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, passed by Congress and signed into law on
23 March 27, 2020, to create a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) in order to provide loans to
24 small businesses with less than 500 employees, and prevent employee lay-offs during the
25 COVID-19 crisis; and

1 WHEREAS, The PPP loans offered total up to \$10 million each and are forgivable if
2 businesses keep workers on payroll; and

3 WHEREAS, The PPP loans were administered through banks authorized by the Small
4 Business Administration, which includes both large national and small local banks; and

5 WHEREAS, Within two weeks the program funds were exhausted, though it appears
6 that only a fraction of the 30 million small businesses in the United States were able to secure
7 loans; and

8 WHEREAS, Larger small businesses—those with 300-500 employees rather than
9 under 50—tend to be better connected and have more tools to navigate the loan process, and
10 businesses owned by women, people of color and monolingual non-English speakers are
11 much more likely to face obstacles to loan applications and are at higher risk for predatory
12 loans; and

13 WHEREAS, Major concerns about the implementation of PPP, the criteria for
14 application and the distribution of funds have arisen, including awarding large chain
15 restaurants with over 5000 employees and construction businesses that are deemed to be
16 essential, and thus remain in operation, and California received the lowest rate of distribution
17 of all 50 states ([https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2020-sba-paycheck-protection-](https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2020-sba-paycheck-protection-program/)
18 [program/](https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2020-sba-paycheck-protection-program/)); and

19 WHEREAS, Such concerns extend not only to hasty loan program design by Congress
20 but to the large commercial banks that, evidence suggests and recent lawsuits allege, favored
21 key existing relationships with their biggest borrowers; and

22 WHEREAS, Congress is looking to distribute another \$300 billion in loan funds and key
23 Democratic lawmakers are advocating for more of the funds being directed to small
24 businesses without existing banking relationships, as well as rural areas and people of color-
25 owned small businesses; and

1 WHEREAS, Big banks have long been critiqued for their role in and during economic
2 crises, including the 2008-2009 recession where large commercial banks and auto companies
3 received a bailout of over \$400 billion from the federal government; and

4 WHEREAS, The role of the large commercial banks in unequally distributing PPP loans
5 show that these banks are ill equipped to provide fair leadership during this—or any—
6 economic crisis; and

7 WHEREAS, Small local banks, credit unions, and community development financial
8 institutions have developed the “relationship banking” model to respond to the needs of their
9 local business and resident customers and to reflect local values and priorities, though these
10 financial institutions often have limitations on their lending capacity; and

11 WHEREAS, A movement for public banking is growing across the United States and
12 efforts are being made to develop local, regional or state public banks in California,
13 Washington State, Arizona, New Mexico, Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Vermont,
14 New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and more; and

15 WHEREAS, The Bank of North Dakota, established in 1919, is the nation’s longest-
16 running public bank, and in 2018 American Samoa established a full-service public bank; and

17 WHEREAS, A public bank, by definition, is owned by a public institution and therefore
18 accountable to taxpayers and members of the public rather than private shareholders; and

19 WHEREAS, A public bank can obtain funds at reduced rates from the Federal Reserve
20 and the Federal Home Loan Bank and pass that cost savings to borrowers, including local
21 government, local financial institutions like credit unions and community development banks,
22 and small businesses; and

23 WHEREAS, The Bank of North Dakota has demonstrated the ability to balance
24 “relationship banking” with banking at scale, financing disaster recovery in the form of a) low-
25 interest loans to residents and business after the 2011 Grand Forks floods, b) credit lines for

1 the North Dakota Division of Emergency Management, North Dakota National Guard, and
2 local governments, c) extending credit partnering with local financial institutions, d)
3 coordinating the forbearance of student loans, and more; and

4 WHEREAS, The California Public Banking Alliance calls for the development of public
5 banks to support the recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, provide emergency funding
6 without tapping into reserves, deliver funds more efficiently, reinvest bank profits into the city,
7 fund preventative measures for crisis resiliency, fund comprehensive emergency
8 preparedness, and ultimately divest from Wall Street banks; and

9 WHEREAS, The California Reinvestment Coalition has developed a set of demands for
10 large commercial banks, including forgiveness of home mortgage loan payments, the creation
11 of a statewide emergency assistance grant initiative to provide short-term financial assistance
12 along with legal services, foreclosure and eviction crisis counseling, and opportunities for
13 tenants, community land trusts and nonprofits to purchase residential buildings; and

14 WHEREAS, Congressional Representative Ilhan Omar has introduced legislation that
15 would cancel rent and mortgage payments across the United States during the coronavirus
16 pandemic, protect against debt accumulation and negative impact on credit ratings and rental
17 histories, and establish a relief fund for landlords and mortgage holders to cover losses from
18 canceled payments; and

19 WHEREAS, In this time of crisis, a public bank can be the engine of local recovery and
20 reinvestment for our city's residents, allowing for a focus on public benefit over extreme profit
21 and focusing on lower interest rates for the City and returns for the public good; and

22 WHEREAS, A public bank could eliminate the tens of thousands of dollars that the city
23 pays to Wall Street banks every year to manage the City's bank accounts; and

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1 WHEREAS, The profits that a public bank makes are directed back into community
2 benefits rather than to Wall Street shareholders, arguably a more responsible investment for
3 the City’s robust pooled investment funds; and

4 WHEREAS, As the City of San Francisco explores local funding for small business and
5 worker relief in response to the COVID-19 crisis, a public bank could be the mechanism to
6 allow for low-cost lending at a local level to support the resurgence of our restaurant and small
7 business corridors; and

8 WHEREAS, As San Francisco looks to recover, a public bank will lay the foundation for
9 a more equitable local economy by financing projects including local public infrastructure,
10 renewable energy, affordable housing, a local Green New Deal and more, that create good
11 paying and union jobs accessible to a diverse range of workers with different skill sets,
12 education, and training who will be looking to return to the workforce; and

13 WHEREAS, The development of a local, regional or state public banking model now
14 would be timely and strategic to aid in the crisis recovery efforts, and will require capitalization
15 funding; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors affirms its support for Congressional relief
17 package that increases the amount of PPP funds available for small businesses; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls for additional federal relief
19 to cities that will bear the brunt of devastation to the local economy; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors affirms its support for the
21 distribution of funds to small businesses, people of color owned businesses, and those who
22 experienced obstacles to the first round of small business stimulus funds, and calls upon large
23 commercial banks to prioritize distribution of funds to the above categories of small
24 businesses; and, be it

25

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisor urges Congress to provide
2 greater oversight, guidance and accountability to banks disbursing the PPP small business
3 loans; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges Congress to support the
5 development of public banks through the allocation of federal funds to local and regional
6 governments for the purposes of public bank capitalization; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests a copy of this resolution be sent to
8 San Francisco's Congressional representatives.

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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 200403

Date Passed: April 28, 2020

Resolution urging Congress to support a new stimulus package that includes increased relief funding for small businesses and local governments, with greater guidance for banks regarding fund disbursement, and to support the development of local and regional public banks through making federal funding available for capitalization.

April 28, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 200403

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/28/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

05/08/2020

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

05/08/2020

Date